

Filed for intro on 02/07/2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION 205  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize the contributions of "Wild Bill"  
Robinson, Orchestra Director for Maryville High  
School.

WHEREAS, those imaginative and talented teachers in our public schools who have the gift to reach out and touch a chord within their young charges to inspire them to reach within themselves and realize their full potential give to those children a priceless gift; and

WHEREAS, Bill Robinson, who for 24 years has instructed children in the Maryville City Schools, most recently as Director of the Maryville High School Orchestra, is one such exceptional instructor and molder of character; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson started out teaching at five different schools before succeeding to his present position; the three children in his orchestra over two decades ago have swelled to 130 who participate in a nationally recognized orchestra program; and

WHEREAS, Bill Robinson must compete for time with his students, who are "highly programmed" with sports and other activities; because his charges are talented, and because

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he succeeds in keeping them focused, they work hard and do extremely well under his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, part of Mr. Robinson's efforts to keep orchestra students interested is to mix popular offerings with the "stodgier" traditional classical works; the February 10 Valentine concert will have male members playing "There's Nothing Like a Dame" with the females responding with "I'm Going to Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair"; and

WHEREAS, Emily Chambers, a former student of Mr. Robinson's, has written an article entitled "Maryville's Music Man" in a special section called "Tennessee Living: People and Places" of the *Southern Living* magazine; Ms. Chambers was responsible for Mr. Robinson earning the sobriquet "Wild Bill" when she stole his pajamas and displayed them in a Gatlinburg hotel lobby during an orchestra outing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Chamber's prank is not untypical of the relationships Mr. Robinson shares with his student orchestra members; his students describe him as "not being like a normal teacher" and he often challenges them to take a stand for what they believe in and to question what they don't understand; and

WHEREAS, Bill Robinson's tendency to stray away from instruction in music and into instruction about life has earned him the respect of his students; combined with his gift for imparting an understanding of music, his "mind stretching" exercises have helped his charges to expand their horizons and to open their minds to all possibilities; and

WHEREAS, the result of "Wild Bill" Robinson's commitment to his students' education, whether in the field of music or of life, along with his ability to work well with them, is to ensure that those who leave Maryville High School and begin their adult lives will long remember and appreciate his influence upon them; and

WHEREAS, instructors of the caliber and commitment of Bill Robinson are a rare treasure for our children and worthy of our praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize the exemplary work of "Wild Bill" Robinson as Director of the Maryville High School orchestra, thank him for his many years of commitment to the students of the Maryville City School system, and extend to him our best wishes for every success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.